

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vending machine control program rewrite system for rewriting a control program of a vending machine, said vending machine comprises a control device having a storage unit storing the control program as a current one of the control program, which comprises:
  - a host computer adapted to send a new one of the control program to said vending machine;
  - said control device comprising a rewritable memory as said storage unit, a receiver adapted to receive said new control program from said host computer,
- 10 and a rewriter adapted to rewrite said control program in said rewritable memory from said current one to said new one of the control program.
2. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, wherein said host computer simultaneously sends said new one of the control program to a plurality of vending machines.
- 15 3. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, wherein said host computer sends said new one of the control program to said vending machine in accordance with a predetermined schedule.
4. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, wherein:
  - 20 said host computer sends to said vending machine said new one of the control program together with a new attribute information of said new one of the control program; and
  - 25 said rewriter has a rewrite determinator adapted to determine based on said new attribute information whether or not the control program should be rewritten from said current one to said new one of the control program.
5. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, said control device having a rewrite program previously stored therein,

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wherein said rewriter performs rewrite of the control program to said new one by executing said rewrite program.

6. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claims 1, wherein:

5       said host computer sends to said vending machine, said new one of the control program together with a rewrite program for rewriting to said new one of the control program; and

      said rewriter performs rewrite of the control program to said new one by executing said rewrite program received from the host computer.

10      7. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, wherein:

      said host computer sends to said vending machine said new one of the control program together with new data mapping information which said new one of the control program uses; and

15      said rewriter has current data mapping information which said current control program uses, and data remapping portion for remapping data used by said current one of the control program, based on said current and new data mapping information so that said data can be used by said new one of the control program.

20      8. The vending machine control program rewrite system according to claim 1, wherein:

      said host computer sends to said vending machine said new one of the control program together with new data mapping information which said new one of the control program uses and a data remapping program for carrying out 25 remapping of said data being used by said current one of the control program so that said data can be used by said new one of the control program; and

      said rewriter performs data remapping by executing said data remapping program received from the host computer.

9. A vending machine having a control device comprising a storage unit storing a control program storing as a current one of the control program therein and an arithmetic and logic unit for executing said current one of the control program, a host computer sending a new one of the control program to said vending machine, wherein said control device further comprises:

5 a rewritable memory as said storage unit;

communication controller adapted to control communication with said host computer; and

rewriter adapted to rewrite the control program from said current one  
10 stored in said storage unit to said new one of the control program received from the host computer via said communication controller.

10. The vending machine according to claim 9, said host computer sending to said vending machine said new one of the control program together with attribute information of said new one of the control program wherein said  
15 rewriter has a rewrite determinator adapted to determine based on said attribute information received from the host computer whether or not said current one of the control program should be rewritten to said new one of the control program.

11. The vending machine according to claim 9, wherein said rewriter comprises a rewrite program store previously storing a rewrite program for  
20 rewriting the control program, and performs rewrite of the control program by executing said rewrite program.

12. The vending machine according to claim 9, said host computer sending said new one of the control program together with a rewrite program for rewriting the control program, wherein said rewriter performs rewrite of the  
25 control program by executing said rewrite program received from the host computer.

13. The vending machine control device according to claim 9, said host computer sending said new one of the control program together with new

data mapping information, wherein said rewriter has a remapping program store previously storing data remapping program, said rewriter, when performing rewrite of the control program to new one of the control program, executing said data remapping program with reference to said data mapping information

- 5 received from the host computer to remap data used by said current one of the control program so that said data can be used by said new one of the control program.

14. The vending machine according to claim 9, said host computer sending said new one of the control program together with a data remapping program, wherein said rewriter, when performing rewrite of the control program to new one of the control program, executing said data remapping program with reference to said data mapping information received from the host computer to remap data used by said current one of the control program so that said data can be used by said new one of the control program.
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